

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 852

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 3397

EXDIS

E. O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CB

SUBJ: HIGHLIGHTS OF AMBASSADOR GODLEY' S VISIT TO PHNOM PENH

1. DURING HIS VISIT AMBASSADOR GODLEY MADE CALLS
APRIL 9 ON MARSHAL LON NOL, PRIMEMINISTER HANG THUN
HAK, AND LT. GENERAL SISOWATH SIRIK MATAK AND HAD
OCCASION AT DINNER APRIL 8 FOR PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS
WITH C/ S MAJOR GENERAL SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ, FOREIGN
MINISTER LONG BORET, AND MAJOR GENERAL SAK SUTSAKHAN.

THE HIGHLIGHTS WERE AS FOLLOWS.

2. THE MEETING WITH LON NOL PRODUCED NO SURPRISES.
THE MARSHAL LAID THE BLAME FOR CONTINUING HOSTILITIES
SQUARELY ON HANOI, CAUTIONED AGAINST ACCOMMODATION
WITH COMMUNISTS, AND EMPHASIZED HIS DESIRE TO SEE A
GREATER REGIONAL EFFORT, MILITARY AND OTHERWISE, TO
CONTAIN DRV EXPANSIONISM. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE
KHMER NATIONAL RESISTANCE TO COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP ON
THE DRV MODEL STEMS FROM BUDDHISM AND THE DOCTRINE OF
QTE EQUALITY WITHOUT DICTATORSHIP UNQTE. HE EXPRESSED
HIS USUAL CONFIDENCE THAT THE KHMER COULD REGULATE
THEIR INTERNAL SQUABBLES IF THE DRV ADHERED TO ITS
UNDERTAKINGS AND WITHDREW ITS ARMED FORCES FROM
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CAMBODIA. HE IMPLIED CONSIDERABLE DOUBT THAT THESE WITHDRAWALS WOULD OCCUR OBSERVING THAT CAMBODIAN TERRITORY IS OBVIOUSLY ESSENTIAL TO DRV OBJECTIVES IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

3. HANG THUN HAK REVIEWED EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THE KHMER KRAHOM (OR KHMER ROUGE, THE NATIONALIST LEFTISTS/ COMMUNISTS IN THE INSURGENCY), REMARKING THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF INTEREST. HE MADE THE POINT THAT PRO- HANOI KHMER DOMINATE THE INSURGENCY AND WILL CONTINUE TO OBSTRUCT EFFORTS AT NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

4. WITH RESPECT TO SIHANOUK' S CLAIMS TO HAVE VISITED QTE LIBERATED CAMBODIA UNQTE, HE COMMENTED THAT THE NEWS HAD NOT PRODUCED ANY QTE ECHOS UNQTE IN PHNOM PENH AND PREDICTED IT WOULD LEAVE THE MAJORITY OF KHMER UNMOVED. HE OBSERVED THAT SIHANOUK' S EXTRAVAGANT BEHAVIOR AND FALSEHOODS ARE WIDELY RECOGNIZED FOR EXACTLY THAT.

5. THE MEETING WITH SIRIK MATAK WAS NOTABLY WARM AND RELAXED. AS IN HIS MEETING WITH SENATOR BROOKE (PHNOM PENH 3230) MATAK PROFESSED A READINESS TO COOPERATE WITH LON NOL, SPOKE OF HIM MORE IN SORROW THAN BITTERNESS, BUT COMMENTED OVERALL THAT EFFORTS TO BROADEN THE GOVERNMENT HAVE THUS FAR COME TO NOTHING AND ARE UNLIKELY TO BE PRODUCTIVE AS LONG AS THE QTE LON BROTHERS UNQTE USURP ALL POWER.

6. AT DINNER APRIL 8 SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ IDENTIFIED BGEN LON NON TO GODLEY AS A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO REFORM AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT IN THE FANK, AND MGEN SAK SUTSAKHAN, IN A SEPARATE AND UNUSUALLY CANDID CONVERSATION WITH ME, STATED BLUNTLY THAT ONLY BGEN LON NON' S DEPARTURE FROM THE COUNTRY WOULD PERMIT A TRUE BROADENING OF THE POLITICAL BASE.
SWANK

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